



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Official newsletter of Meriden Public Library, December 2023

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Meriden Mall location is permanently closed, and our newly renovated Meriden Public Library at 105 Miller Street is now open!

PERMANENT LOCATION:

**105 MILLER ST
MERIDEN, CT 06450**

HOLIDAYS:

CLOSED MONDAY, 12/25
in observance of
Christmas Day

CLOSED MONDAY, 1/1
in observance of
New Year's Day

*Season's
Greetings*

REGULAR HOURS:

Monday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm

Thursday: 9:30 am to 8:30 pm

Friday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am to 5:00 pm

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Be sure to regularly check our Facebook page or website for any weather-related closings that may require us to close the library or cancel a program.



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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS



Bookstore Hours of Operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10 am to 4 pm
Wednesday: 10 am to 7 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 2 pm

The bookstore has many gently used books, CDs, DVDs, and puzzles suitable for gift giving. We also have gift certificates. Stop by and check us out.

BOOKSTORE HOLIDAY SPECIAL (UNTIL DECEMBER 30TH):

**All Holiday books, CDs, and DVDs (Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa):
Buy One, Get One Free (of equal or lesser value)!**

We also have several beautiful photos on canvas available as holiday gifts.

Thank you to all who made our October "\$5.00 per bag" Book Sale a great success. We were able to raise nearly \$1700.00 for the library!

We also thank Casa di Roma for sponsoring a fundraiser for us on November 16th. Many thanks to those who made purchases that day to support us. Casa di Roma is giving \$286.00 to the Friends.

JAMES H. NAPIER
FOUNDATION



In addition, we thank the Napier Foundation for their generous grant of \$5,000.00, to be used for children and teen programming in 2024.

Donations

Now that the renovation/expansion is complete, we will refocus to raise funds for library programming. You can mail your gift to the library or drop it off in the bookstore.

Additionally, you can donate by going to the Friends webpage,
<https://www.meridenlibrary.org/about/friends-of-the-library>, scrolling down to Thank You to Our "Friends," and clicking on the Helping the Library Friends drop-down button directly below it.

Library Donors

We wish to thank those who have donated to library programming or the Holocaust fund since our last update:

Margaret and L. Clark Robison
Carmen Rodrigues Rivera and Felix Rivera
Sandy Goodyear
Rosanne Ford
Delwyn and Vicki Cummings
Karen A. Lesiak
Jean Regnier



Still Available

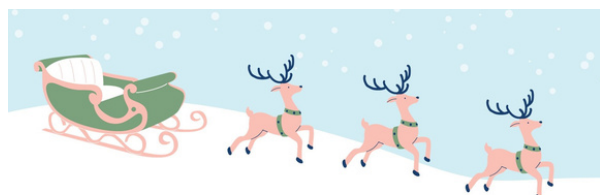
It is still possible to be listed on the "donor plaque" for a gift of \$1,000.00, and we also still have several rooms that can be named. Please contact Frank Ridley (fridley@cox.net) for more information.



Christmas in the Village

Visit the bookmobile in South Meriden at the yearly celebration of Christmas in the Village!

Saturday, December 2nd
1-4:30 pm



CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Saturday, December 2nd @1:00 PM
Main Street South Meriden



2023 Ornament

The Meriden Public Library Local History department has been creating Meriden ornaments since 1994. Each pewter medallion is manufactured by Woodbury Pewter and features a Meriden historic landmark. This year's ornament highlights the storefront of the Meriden Historical Society on West Main Street. All proceeds are used to purchase books, periodicals, archival supplies, and other local history items.

Ornaments are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at the Visitor Services desk at the library during normal business hours. Limited supplies available.

Payments by cash or check only. Make checks payable to: **Meriden Public Library**

IF ORDERING BY MAIL, PLEASE INCLUDE \$5 FOR SHIPPING & HANDLING and send to:

Meriden Public Library
105 Miller Street
Meriden, CT 06450



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Featured December Programs



To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>

An Introduction to Hiking & Nature in Meriden, with Mark & Lyndsey Wantroba

Do you like to be out in nature? Do you like to hike?

Join us as avid hiker, naturalist, and photographer couple Mark & Lyndsey Wantroba give an interesting talk on nature and hiking in Meriden.

Registration requested.

Thursday, December 21st
6-8 pm



Rise Up! Indigenous Music in North America: A Presentation with Craig Harris

Covering more than 500 years of history, religion, and cultural evolution, Rise Up! combines deep research with personal stories by four dozen award-winning Indigenous musicians. More than powwow drums and wooden flutes, Indigenous music intersects with rock, blues, jazz, folk music, reggae, hip-hop, and more. In conjunction with Rise Up's publication, Craig Harris will present a 90-minute multimedia and participatory introduction to today's Indigenous music, incorporating songs, stories, a video montage, and guided music-making. Harris, a music historian, percussionist, and Washington, D.C., radio host, has played with greats including Melanie, Rick Danko (The Band), and Los Texmaniacs.

Saturday, December 9th
2-3:30 pm



Ronny LeBlanc: Expedition Bigfoot

Join us as author Ronny LeBlanc – a globally recognized figure in the world of paranormal, Bigfoot, and UFOs – gives an intriguing talk on the search for Bigfoot. Ronny was the first person ever to cast a Bigfoot print in Massachusetts from a trackway discovered by a couple in Leominster State Forest in the summer of 2010. He stars in Travel Channel's hit series *Expedition Bigfoot* (Season 4 is premiering now) and *Paranormal Caught on Camera*. Ronny is also author of the critically acclaimed & bestselling book, *Monsterland: Encounters with UFOs, Bigfoot, and Orange Orbs*.

Saturday, December 2nd
2-3:30 pm



Augusta Curtis Cultural Center Winter Concert

The Augusta Curtis Band, made up of approximately 40 local amateur musicians, will perform their winter concert at the library. The concert includes a full range of contemporary and classical music that celebrates the winter season.

Wednesday, December 20th
6-8 pm



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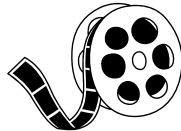


To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>

Matinee Monday: "Casablanca" (1942) - Drama/ Romance, Starring Humphrey Bogart & Ingrid Bergman

Academy Award winners Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman light up the screen in one of the most enduring romances in movie history--*Casablanca*. Rick Blaine (Bogart) owns a nightclub in Vichy-controlled Casablanca, frequented by refugees desperate to escape German domination. Despite the ever-present human misery, Rick manages to remain uninvolved in World War II now raging across Europe and Northern Africa. But all that changes when Ilsa Lund (Bergman) walks through the front door of Rick's club--Rick must now choose between a life with the woman he loves, and becoming the hero that both she and the world need.

Monday, December 18th
11am - 1:30pm



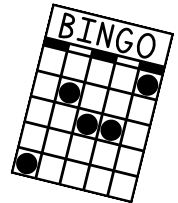
New Year's Celebration Lotería - *For All Ages*

Join us for a special New Year's Day celebration with the Mexican card game Lotería, which is similar to bingo.

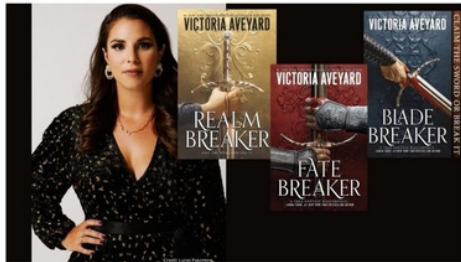
Holiday refreshments will be provided.

Registration requested.

Wednesday, December 27th
3-4 pm



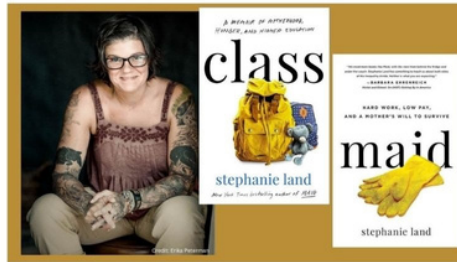
December Virtual Author Talks



Victoria Aveyard
Realm Breaker (Young Adult Fantasy Fiction series)

- #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Red Queen* series and *Realm Breaker* series

Tuesday, December 5th
at 7 pm EST



Stephanie Land

Class: A Memoir of Motherhood, Hunger, and Higher Education

- *NYT* bestselling author of her first memoir, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, & A Mother's Will to Survive*
- Barack Obama picked *Maid* as one of the best books of 2019
- *Maid* was later adapted into the hit Netflix series of the same name

Tuesday, December 12th
at 2 pm EST

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 ***December brings two health-related programs with news you can use*** 

.....
CT Paid Leave Information Session

Did you know that in Connecticut you can take time off from work to care for personal or family health needs without risking your paycheck?

Join the Connecticut Paid Leave Authority at the Meriden Public Library for an informational session to learn more about the CT Paid Leave program, including eligibility, covered reasons for leave, and how to apply for benefits.

Staff will provide an overview of CT Paid Leave and will also be available to answer individual questions and assist with filing an online claim application.



WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!

**Thursday, December 7th
6-7:30 pm**



.....
Hartford HealthCare's Early Detection and Prevention Program Table

Elva Delgado, Community Health Navigator for Hartford HealthCare's Cancer Institute, will discuss Hartford HealthCare's Early Detection and Prevention Program (EDPP) at a front table at the library on Thursday, December 14th from 10am - 2pm. The program is grant-funded by the CT Department of Public Health and aims to raise cancer awareness, promote cancer screenings, and increase access to cancer care. It is a "no questions asked" program, and immigration and income status are not verified. Please stop by to learn more!



**Thursday, December 14th
10am - 2pm**



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Knit & Crochet Club

Join us at the Morning Knit & Crochet Club! All skill levels are welcome. Meets every first & third Wednesday of the month.
Note: this is not an instructional program, & materials are not provided.



Wednesday, December 6th & 20th
10am-12pm

Practice English Conversation

Join us to practice English in a fun and comfortable environment! This program presents an opportunity to practice your English conversational skills in a group with a certified TESOL teacher! Some knowledge of English is recommended.

LEARN ENGLISH

Thursday, December 7th & 21st, 3-4 pm

Classics Clique Book Club, Meeting #1

This club is for people who love classics, or who just want to try reading more of them. There will be a group book to read every month, as well as a viewing of the movie adaptation. In this meeting, we will be discussing the November book pick, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*, by Shirley Jackson, as well as the 2019 movie adaptation of the same name.



Monday, December 4th
3-4 pm

BookTok Book Club

Join us for BookTok Book Club where we discuss books that have trended on social media platforms including TikTok and Instagram. Share thoughts on your latest read or gather ideas for the next one!

December Book: *The Clause in Christmas*, by Rachael Bloome

Physical copies are available at the Visitor Services desk. Audiobook is available on Hoopla.



Wednesday, December 13th
6:30-8 pm

Spanish Conversation Hour

Join us for a fun, relaxing conversation hour to practice your Spanish. This program is recommended for those who have some knowledge of Spanish.
Ages 12 and up.



Wednesday, December 6th & 13th
4-5 pm

What's Next? Book Club

Our wonderful book club will discuss *Wrong Place, Wrong Time*, by Gillian McAllister. This is a thriller that goes back and forth in time, trying to prevent a murder!



Wednesday, December 13th
6:30-7:30 pm

Classics Clique Book Club, Meeting #2

This club is for people who love classics, or who just want to try reading more of them. There will be a group book to read every month, as well as a viewing of the movie adaptation. In this meeting, we will be watching the movie, *The Crucible* (1996).



Tuesday, December 26th
6-8 pm

Coloring Club!

Join us to relax and unwind by coloring various designs!

All coloring supplies will be provided.

Thursday, December 14th & 28th
3-4 pm



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**NOW
OPEN**



MERIDEN ROOM HISTORICAL & GENEALOGY COLLECTION

Now open for visits by appointment only!

To arrange your appointment, visit:
MeridenLibrary.org/history-genealogy

The purpose of the Meriden Room Historical and Genealogy Collection is to collect, preserve, and make available for public use, materials relating to the history of the city of Meriden. Included in the collection is an assortment of newspaper articles, photos, yearbooks, city directories, genealogy books and magazines, maps, and more.

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Tomie dePaola Children's Library



To register for a program, call the Children's Desk at
(203) 630-4737, or sign up online!

Registration is now open and is required unless otherwise noted



Felt Gingerbread Decorating

Tuesday, Dec 5 from 5:30 pm – 7 pm
Grades 1-5 | Registration Required

Learn to embellish felt gingerbread people in this 90-minute hands-on program for ages 8 and up. In class you will learn to “ice” your “cookie” with the help of Dawn Zillich – The Stitching Coach. Participants will use needle, thread, ribbon, buttons, and other materials to decorate their felt gingerbread person.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

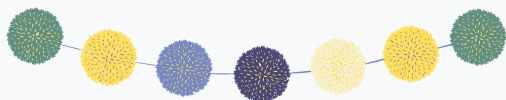


Perler Bead Keychains

Wednesday, Dec 6 from 6 pm – 8 pm
Grades 3-5 | Registration Required

Create Perler bead keychains for yourself or as a gift. Templates will be available or you can design your own.

Location: **Children's Project Room**



Paint-Your-Own Mini Holiday Tree Craft

Saturday, Dec 9 from 10 am to 12 noon
Grades K-5 | Drop-In

Join us for a festive craft where participants will create their own holiday tree with paint, sponge brushes, a pinecone, glue, and pom-poms. Your creative creations are sure to be a sensation. Registration is requested, but not required. Some dry time may be needed at home.

Location: **Children's Project Room**



Hot Cocoa Mug Craft

Wednesday, Dec 13 from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Celebrate National Hot Cocoa Day with us! Cozy up with a good craft where participants will make their own cup of hot cocoa using a paper plate, paint, glue sticks, tissue paper, construction paper, and pom-poms.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Messy Makers: Fingerprint Snowmen

Friday, Dec 15 from 10:30 am – 11:30 am
Ages 0-5 | Drop-In

Come get messy with us! This month we're making fingerprint snowmen. We'll provide aprons, but please wear clothes you don't mind getting messy.

Location: **Children's Project Room**



Lego Block Party

Saturday, Dec 16 from 10 am – 2 pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-In

Imagination and creation combined! Join us to make a LEGO creation to be put on display at the library. Show up anytime between 10 am and 2 pm to work on your creation.

Location: **Children's Project Room**



Paint a Hedgie Drop-In Craft

Thursday, Dec 21 from 4 pm – 5 pm
Grades K-5 | Drop-In

We can't wait to see you here! Stop by to create your very own hedgehog painting! Participants will use watercolor paper and watercolors to make a happy little hedgie. Registration is requested, but not required.

Location: **Children's Project Room**



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Registration is now open and is required unless otherwise noted

Winter Break Fun!



Shows

Matt Matthews Magic Show

Wednesday, Dec 27 at 6:30 pm
Ages 4-9 | Registration Required

Join us for a fun night filled with magic and laughs with Matt Matthews! At the end of this interactive show kids will learn how to do a magic trick!

Location: **Meeting Room 1+2+3**

Black Bears in Connecticut

Thursday, Dec 28 from 11 am - 12 noon
Grades K-5 | Registration Required

Join Paul Colburn, a Master Wildlife Conservationist from Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP), to learn about the natural history of black bears in Connecticut.

Location: **Meeting Room 5**

Ring in the New Year with our Book Besties

Dogman Perler Bead Craft

Tuesday, Dec 26 from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Ages 6-11 | Registration Required

Ring in the New Year with our book bestie Dogman! Join us for an all out fun Perler Bead craft where participants will have the option to make Dogman or Lil' Petey keychain.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Harry Potter Wand & Floating Candle Craft

Thursday, Dec 28 From 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Ages 8-11 | Registration Required

Ring in the New Year with our Book Bestie Harry Potter! Participants will have a magical time painting their own wands and creating a floating candle at this event.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Pigeon & Duckling Puppet Craft

Wednesday, Dec 27 from 10:30 am - 11:30 am
Ages 4-8 | Registration Required

Ring in the New Year with our book besties Pigeon and Duckling! The Pigeon may not be allowed to drive the bus, but he is allowed to be a craft. Participants will have a ball making Pigeon and Duckling puppets out of construction paper, popsicle sticks, and more.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

Pete the Cat Crown Craft

Friday, Dec 29 From 10:30 am - 11:30 am
Ages 4-8 | Registration Required

Ring in the New Year with our book bestie Pete the Cat! Kiddos will be cool as cats wearing the crown they make at this special crafting event.

Location: **Children's Project Room**

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December Teen Programs

To register for events, go to: <https://www.meridenlibrary.org/events/month>



Monthly Meetups

Rainbow Roundtable

Wednesday, December 6th
6 to 7pm

Beyond the Book Club

Friday, December 15th
3 to 4:30pm

Trading Card Club

Tuesday, December 26th
6 to 7:30pm

Teen Movie Matinees

Saturdays, December 2nd & 16th
1 to 2:30pm

Tabletop Club

Thursday, December 21st
6 to 8pm

Manga Club

Thursday, December 28th
6 to 7:30pm

DIY Programs

Holiday Crafting

Friday, December 8th
3 to 4:30pm

Come celebrate the holiday season with a variety of crafts. Ornaments, dreidels, and beads will be available to decorate.

Snowflake Embroidery

Thursday, December 14th
3 to 4:30pm

Use felt, embroidery thread, and sequins to create your own unique snowflake.

Winter Ski-Scape Painting

Wednesday, December 20th
3 to 4:30pm

Create a fun mountain ski landscape using acrylic paint and modeling paste.

DIY CD Curtain

Tuesday, December 12th
3:30 to 5pm

Add some flare to your room with this fun DIY. Using recycled CDs, create a hanging masterpiece.

DIY Disco Ball

Saturday, December 23rd
1:30 to 3pm

We've all seen them on TikTok...so let's finally make them...using Styrofoam, hot glue, and a whole lot of mirror squares.



National Cocoa Day Celebration

Wednesday, December 13th
3 to 4pm

Come celebrate National Cocoa Day at the library with hot cocoa and cookies!

Gingerbread House Competition

Friday, December 29th
3 to 4:30pm

Do you have the crafting chops to beat out the competition?



New Year's Celebration

Saturday, December 30th
3 to 4:30pm

Come celebrate the New Year at the library! Take a look back at 2023 as we look forward to 2024!



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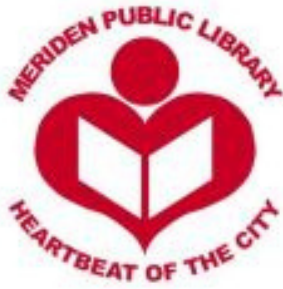


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Friends of the Meriden Public Library

Membership / Renewal Application

NAME (please print): _____

Additional Names (list others in household covered by this membership):

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

☐ \$100.00 (or more) - CORPORATE

☐ \$100.00 (or more) - BENEFACTOR

☐ \$40.00 - PATRON

☐ \$10.00 - BASIC

☐ I WISH TO DONATE TO THE WORLD WAR II HOLOCAUST FUND:

AMOUNT: _____

☐ I WISH TO DONATE TO LIBRARY PROGRAMMING:

AMOUNT: _____

☐ I WISH TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION:

AMOUNT: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Indicate areas of interest - Check as many areas as you desire

_____ Library Advocacy

_____ Book Sorting

_____ Internet Sales

_____ Newsletter

_____ Membership

_____ Bookstore

_____ Any Area Where Needed

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Library (FOTL)

Return to: Friends of the Meriden Public Library, 105 Miller Street, Meriden, CT 06450

In order to maximize the effect of your membership funds, we will not be providing membership cards; your cancelled check will be your proof of membership.

Thank you!